

Reception into Year 1: Summer Learning Ideas

Consolidate EYFS foundations and build confidence for more structured learning.

Little and often works best: aim for 10-15 minutes, 4 times a week, plus regular reading for pleasure.

Keep these secure

- **Read and talk daily:** share stories, retell favourite parts and spot rhyming words.
- **Phonics:** recognise letters already taught and practise saying pure sounds. [RWI videos - set 2](#)
- **Numbers:** count objects to 20, match numerals, compare more/fewer and make 5/10.
- **Fine motor:** draw, colour, cut, thread, build with bricks and practise name writing.
- **Independence:** coat, shoes, toilet, lunchbox, water bottle and asking for help.

A simple weekly rhythm

- Read together for 10 minutes every day or most days.
- 2 days: phonics treasure hunt - find objects beginning with a chosen sound.
- 2 days: number hunt - count steps, cars, shells, pasta or toys.
- 1 day: draw and label a picture about something you did.
- Every outing: talk about shapes, signs, coins, time of day and directions.

Games and everyday challenges

- Sound I-spy: use letter sounds, not letter names, e.g. "s" for sock.
- Shop game: choose 3 items, count them, pay with pretend coins.
- Board games: practise taking turns, counting jumps and coping with winning/losing.
- Story basket: put 3 toys in a bag and make up a story using all of them.
- Sock pairs: match pairs, count in twos and describe same/different.

Ready for September

- Build stamina for listening: follow 2-step instructions, e.g. "put on shoes and fetch your bottle".
- Talk positively about Year 1: new routines, more independence, securing writing a sentence with a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop and being proud of trying and persevering.

Useful links and online games (clickable in the digital copy)

[Oxford Owl free eBook library](#) - free reading books for ages 3-11; registration needed

[PhonicsPlay free resources](#) - selected blending, segmenting and tricky word games

[Oxford Owl Maths](#) - age-by-age maths guidance and home activities

[Summer Reading Challenge](#) - join online or at the local library

Tip for families: keep it positive, stop before it becomes frustrating, and celebrate effort rather than speed.

Year 1 into Year 2: Summer Learning Ideas

Keep phonics, sentence writing and early number facts ticking over.

Little and often works best: aim for 10-15 minutes, 4 times a week, plus regular reading for pleasure.

Keep these secure

- **Reading:** read decodable books and talk about what happened, who and why.
- **Phonics/spelling:** practise Phase 5 sounds, tricky words and spelling [common Year 1 words](#).
- **Writing:** say a sentence, count the words, write it, then check capital letters and full stop.
- **Maths facts:** number bonds to 10 and 20; doubles and halves within 20.
- **Counting:** forwards/backwards within 100; count in 2s, 5s and 10s.

A simple weekly rhythm

- Read 10-15 minutes most days; rereading is great for fluency.
- 2 days: practise 5 words, then use 2 in funny sentences.
- 2 days: quick-fire number bonds or doubles for 5 minutes. [Topmarks Hit the Button](#)
- 1 day: write a postcard, diary sentence, label or shopping list.
- One real-life maths moment: coins, time, measuring, sharing or directions.

Games and everyday challenges

- Roll two dice: add them, then find the number bond to 20.
- Post-it phonics: hide words around the room and read them to collect points.
- Coin shop: make amounts up to 50p in different ways.
- Sentence silly swap: change one word to make a sentence funnier.
- Skip-count workouts: jump in 2s, clap in 5s, march in 10s.

Ready for September

- Answer questions in full sentences when talking about books.
- Build confidence spelling by sounding out first, then checking.
- Practise neat, correctly formed letters without rushing.

Useful links and online games (clickable in the digital copy)

[PhonicsPlay free resources](#) - selected blending, segmenting and tricky word games

[Teach Your Monster to Read](#) - phonics and reading game; free on computers

[Oxford Owl free eBook library](#) - free reading books for ages 3-11; registration needed

[Topmarks Hit the Button](#) - quick practice: number bonds, times tables, doubles and halves

[NRICH Maths at Home](#) - rich puzzles and games to talk through together

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Year 2 into Year 3: Summer Learning Ideas

Consolidate KS1 essentials so children feel ready for Key Stage 2.

Little and often works best: aim for 10-15 minutes, 4 times a week, plus regular reading for pleasure.

Keep these secure

- **Reading fluency:** read aloud with expression and answer “How do you know?” questions.
- **Spelling/grammar:** [common exception words](#), suffixes, apostrophes, commas in lists and sentence types.
- **Writing:** write short paragraphs using capital letters, full stops, questions and conjunctions.
- **Maths facts:** bonds to 20/100, doubles/halves and 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
- **Calculation:** add/subtract 2-digit numbers and explain methods using drawings or jottings.

A simple weekly rhythm

- Read 15 minutes most days; mix school-level books, library books and comics.
- 2 days: times table practice for 2s, 5s and 10s; begin 3s if confident. [TTRockstars](#)
- 2 days: mental maths - add/subtract 10, near doubles, number bonds to 100. [Topmarks Hit the Button](#)
- 1 day: write a diary entry, review, fact file or thank-you note.
- Weekly: cook, measure, tell the time and handle coins in real contexts.

Games and everyday challenges

- 100-square race: start on a number, add/subtract 10 or 1 and explain the move.
- Times-table snap: match facts to answers, e.g. 5 x 4 and 20.
- Receipt maths: round prices to pounds and estimate the total.
- Conjunction challenge: join two short sentences using because, but, so or when.
- Treasure map: give turns and directions using left, right, quarter turn and half turn.

Ready for September

- Practise reading independently for a little longer without stopping at every tricky word.
- Use mistakes as clues: “What could we try next?” rather than giving the answer straight away.
- Write full sentences using a capital letter, full stop and finger spaces.

Useful links and online games (clickable in the digital copy)

[Oxford Owl free eBook library](#) - free reading books for ages 3-11; registration needed

[White Rose free workbooks](#) - free Years 1-6 maths workbooks

[Topmarks Hit the Button](#) - quick practice: number bonds, times tables, doubles and halves

[NRICH Maths at Home](#) - rich puzzles and games to talk through together

[BBC Bitesize](#) - videos, games and revision by subject and key stage

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Year 3 into Year 4: Summer Learning Ideas

Strengthen times tables, written methods, reading stamina and paragraph writing.

Little and often works best: aim for 10-15 minutes, 4 times a week, plus regular reading for pleasure.

Keep these secure

- **Reading:** retrieve facts, infer feelings and summarise chapters in a few sentences.
- **Writing:** use paragraphs, expanded noun phrases, conjunctions, adverbs and neat joined handwriting.
- **Spelling:** prefixes/suffixes and Year 3/4 statutory words little and often [Year 3 and 4 Spellings](#)
- **Times tables:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 facts with matching division facts.
- **Maths:** place value to 1,000, column addition/subtraction, fractions and time.

A simple weekly rhythm

- Read 15-20 minutes most days; ask for evidence from the text.
- 3 short times-table bursts per week; practise both multiplication and division. [TTRockstars](#)
- 2 mental maths sessions: number bonds to 100, adding 9/11, doubling and halving. [Topmarks Hit the Button](#)
- 1 writing task: paragraph about a day out, book character, game or project.
- Use analogue clocks, calendars, measuring tapes and recipes whenever possible.

Games and everyday challenges

- Array hunt: find real arrays on tiles, windows, egg boxes and chocolate bars.
- Fraction picnic: cut food into halves, quarters, thirds and compare pieces.
- Perimeter detective: measure around a table, rug or garden bed.
- Adverb acting: pick a verb and adverb, then act it out for others to guess.
- Division stories: share objects equally and write the matching number sentence.

Ready for September

- Aim for accurate recall before speed in times tables.
- Encourage children to check writing for punctuation, sense and spelling patterns.
- Practice explaining: "I know this because..." in maths and reading.

Useful links and online games (clickable in the digital copy)

[Topmarks Hit the Button](#) - quick practice: number bonds, times tables, doubles and halves

[Topmarks Daily 10](#) - ten mental maths questions; choose level and topic

[NRICH Maths at Home](#) - rich puzzles and games to talk through together

[Oxford Owl English](#) - grammar, spelling, handwriting and writing advice

[Oxford Owl free eBook library](#) - free reading books for ages 3-11; registration needed

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Year 4 into Year 5: Summer Learning Ideas

Keep arithmetic fluent and deepen reasoning, vocabulary and independent writing.

Little and often works best: aim for 10-15 minutes, 4 times a week, plus regular reading for pleasure.

Keep these secure

- **Reading:** infer, predict, summarise and explain how authors create mood or character.
- **Writing:** organise ideas into paragraphs with varied sentence starters and accurate punctuation. [Literacy Link](#)
- **Spelling:** Year 3/4 words, prefixes/suffixes and personal tricky-word list [Year 3 and 4 Spellings](#)
- **Times tables:** all facts to 12 x 12 and related division facts.
- **Maths:** place value to 10,000+, formal written methods, fractions, decimals, time and measure.

A simple weekly rhythm

- Read 20 minutes most days; vary fiction, non-fiction, poetry, news and magazines.
- 3 times-table practices per week: mixed facts, divisions and missing numbers. [TTRockstars](#)
- 2 arithmetic sessions: column methods, estimating and checking with the inverse. [Topmarks Daily 10](#)
- 1 longer writing task: review, persuasive poster, instructions or travel diary.
- Weekly problem-solving: try a puzzle where there may be more than one method.

Games and everyday challenges

- Factor pairs: choose a number and find all its factor pairs before the timer ends.
- Decimal money: convert pounds/pence and compare prices to find best value.
- Vocabulary collector: choose 5 powerful words from reading and use them in talk/writing.
- Estimate first: guess the length, mass, capacity or total, then measure/check.
- Headline challenge: turn a family event into a newspaper headline and opening paragraph.

Ready for September

- Build independence: read task instructions twice before asking for help.
- Keep tables ticking over so new Year 5 maths does not feel overloaded.
- Encourage neat workings-out, not just final answers.

Useful links and online games (clickable in the digital copy)

[Topmarks Hit the Button](#) - quick practice: number bonds, times tables, doubles and halves

[White Rose free workbooks](#) - free Years 1-6 maths workbooks

[NRICH Maths at Home](#) - rich puzzles and games to talk through together

[Oxford Owl Maths](#) - age-by-age maths guidance and home activities

[Summer Reading Challenge](#) - join online or at the local library

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Year 5 into Year 6: Summer Learning Ideas

Maintain confidence for upper Key Stage 2 without making summer feel like revision season.

Little and often works best: aim for 10-15 minutes, 4 times a week, plus regular reading for pleasure.

Keep these secure

- **Reading:** read widely, infer with evidence and summarise whole chapters or articles.
- **Writing:** plan, draft, improve and proof-read; include varied punctuation and cohesive paragraphs. [Literacy Link](#)
- **Grammar/spelling:** [Year 5/6 words](#), relative clauses, commas, apostrophes and direct speech. (Edshed.)
- **Arithmetic:** tables, [TTRockstars](#) fractions, decimals, percentages and efficient written methods (column addition and subtraction, long and short multiplication and short division).
- **Reasoning:** explain methods, spot mistakes and decide if an answer is sensible.

A simple weekly rhythm

- Read 20-25 minutes most days; talk about themes, motives and vocabulary.
- 3 arithmetic bursts per week: fractions/decimals/percentages and mixed operations. [Topmarks Daily 10](#)
- 1 reasoning puzzle per week: draw it, list possibilities, work systematically. [NRICH Maths at Home](#)
- 1 extended writing task: balanced argument, story opening, blog, review or report.
- Keep real-life maths going: budgets, cooking ratios, journey times and timetables.

Games and everyday challenges

- Percentage sale: calculate 10%, 25%, 50% and compare discounts in shops.
- Fraction war: compare two fractions using common denominators or equivalents.
- Edit the adult: parent writes a paragraph with errors; child becomes the teacher.
- Countdown numbers: make a target number using four chosen numbers and operations.
- Debate night: give reasons for and against a topic, then write a short conclusion.

Ready for September

- Practice showing working clearly and checking calculations independently.
- Encourage homework routines and looking after equipment - practise packing their own bags, dressing appropriately for the weather, making sure things are named etc.
- Read through the [writing expectations](#) for the end of the year. Here you can see what they need for Working Towards (WTS) Expected (EXS) and Greater Depth (GDS).

Useful links and online games (clickable in the digital copy)

[White Rose free workbooks](#) - free Years 1-6 maths workbooks

[Topmarks Daily 10](#) - ten mental maths questions; choose level and topic

[NRICH Maths at Home](#) - rich puzzles and games to talk through together

[Oxford Owl English](#) - grammar, spelling, handwriting and writing advice

[BBC Bitesize](#) - videos, games and revision by subject and key stage

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Year 6 into Year 7: Summer Learning Ideas

Prepare for secondary school by building independence, organisation and core skills.

Little and often works best: aim for 10-15 minutes, 4 times a week, plus regular reading for pleasure.

Keep these secure

- **Reading:** keep reading for pleasure and stamina; try new authors, genres and non-fiction.
- **Writing:** write for different audiences: formal email, story, review, notes and explanation.
- **Vocabulary:** notice unfamiliar words, work out meaning from context and use them in speech.
- **Maths:** secure all operations, [times tables](#), fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio and measure.
- **Independence:** pack a bag, manage time, read a timetable and ask for help politely.

A simple weekly rhythm

- Read 20-30 minutes most days; include one slightly challenging book over summer.
- 2 arithmetic refreshers per week: mixed operations and fractions/decimals/percentages.
- 1 problem-solving task per week: explain your method in writing.
- 1 organisation practice: plan a week, pack a bag, budget a small amount or follow a recipe.
- 1 writing task: diary, book review, persuasive letter, science report or "how to" guide.

Games and everyday challenges

- Timetable challenge: plan a journey or pretend school day using times and room numbers.
- Budget cook-off: plan a simple meal within a budget and compare prices.
- Speed retrieval: quiz each other on key facts from a page, podcast or documentary.
- Map reading: use grid references, scales, compass points and directions on a walk.
- Explain it simply: teach an adult a Year 6 maths method or grammar rule.

Ready for September

- Practise resilience: what to do if lost, late, stuck on homework or worried. Explore their secondary school website to really see their new setting.
- Remind children that secondary school is a fresh start, and questions are welcome.
- Encourage homework routines and looking after equipment - practise packing their own bags, dressing appropriately for the weather, making sure things are named etc.

Useful links and online games (clickable in the digital copy)

[Summer Reading Challenge](#) - join online or at the local library

[White Rose Maths home learning](#) - short maths videos and practice by year group

[Topmarks Hit the Button](#) - quick practice: number bonds, times tables, doubles and halves

[NRICH Maths at Home](#) - rich puzzles and games to talk through together

[BBC Bitesize](#) - videos, games and revision by subject and key stage

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